

HENRY DARGER -

" THE VIVIAN  
GIRLS  
IN CHICAGO "

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VOLUME

ELEVEN

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terrible if any sorrow were to come to the Tanners too but once with the Octopus in the Conference room they had eyes ears and thoughts for nothing in the world except the details of the conference.

It seemed to them before they left the room containing the Paloo that the Powers of darkness was rapidly gaining ground. It was even unusually quiet out in the great hall, even quieter than ever before, and oh how heavily it was raining out doors, and what crashes of thunder for so early in the year.

But when Violet whispered her fears to Mr Francis he spoke encouragingly.

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"We can't tell anything yet" she said. "It's only the natural course of the possess. ion we will be more success ful as time goes on you know, but I am almost sure the crisis will come within a week or more"

Outside the door gen- nie herself tottered and sank against the wall from sheer exhaustion feeling suddenly very weak and faint.

It seemed to her as though in those next few moments the fate of Mr. Desemans house was to be de- cided.

With an exclamation of pitying tenderness Hannah gathered the little swaying figure in her

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arms

"My poor dear, my poor dear" she murmured as Gerrie laid her aching head down her aching head down on the good old womans motherly breast. "If you would only rest now and get some well needed sleep it would do you no end of good."

"I can't" said the little girl in a hoarse whisper. "We don't dare. The demons would have all the advan- tage over us, and if we lost ground this time we will have to question them. I quit them. I'll sleep for two hours, if you'll wake me up."

The clasp of the old house keepers arm lightened perceptibly.

"My dear" she said.

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"very tenderly" have you and your sisters asked all your children friends to make a special Novena to the Sacred Heart asking him to help you in all this work, and to make you all become victorious?"

"Oh yes, Novena after Novena has been offered up. Masses have continually been said, but still the demons won't go away. I believe to test our faith He seems so far away. But our faith won't be shaken. The more stubborn the Powers of darkness is the more stubborn we will be. We won't give up."

"I am sure you are right" said Hannah softly stroking the little girls forehead as she

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spoke "We don't never understand the ways of the Powers of darkness, and it is not always that they can be driven out of a house but if they're worthy our prayers are always answered sooner or later and God always hears.

"And now I going to ask you and your sisters to do something"

"We will do anything we can" said Joyce raising her head with sudden eagerness "you have been so good to me and my sisters. I and my sisters shall be so glad to do something for you"

"Well it ain't exactly for me" said Hannah smiling "that is to say in one way it is and

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in another it isn't. I want you and your sisters to go up stairs to your safe room under the attic, and try to get some sleep!"

"To try to get some sleep?" exclaimed Grace looking rather frightened. "Oh dear Hannah, I don't think we could do that. The demons might get the best of us."

"Only try and see if you can't sleep without that danger" said the housekeeper reassuringly. "The 'Octopus' and the others can carry on while you sleep. We know about Mr Paul Francis for more than twenty years and I think I know him much better than most

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folks do. The evil spirits think they can defeat him sometime but bless you he does not let any of them do anything like that. He's got one of the strongest following in the world and now he just about worships you and your sisters."

"Some one told me once that Mr Paul Francis defeated demons in other possessed places, is that why he is so sure he can help us succeed here too?"

"Yes, it's partly that and partly other things. He drove wicked spirits out of a tavern in some town in New Jersey too."

The Octopus was sitting in the safer room

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under the attic in council with the prelates of the church and the little Vir-lans, he too felt that the next week might decide the fate of Mr. Sesemanns crazy house.

In mediating on the situation he sat for a few minutes with his face between his hands.

Then he raised his head to look into Violets tender blue eyes filled with expectation and earnest hope.

He rose to his feet.

"Is there anything you can suggest that we can do to bring about the end of this crazy nonsense?" he asked in a tone that Violet scarcely recognized.

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it was so low and gentle. "No" said Violet in a rather unsteady voice "It's not that we came for anything but to join the meeting but I am very discouraged and unhappy and yet I thought you might be unhappy and discouraged too the fiends seem to oppose us so."

"Oppose us?" the 'Octopus' repeated slowly and there was a strange ring in his voice and a strange gleam in his eyes "There has never been any sect of demons, in any other kind of (demons) evil spirits that have ever opposed me successfully yet."

"Did you ever drive demons out of a tavern

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in New Jersey?" Violet asked softly.

The Octopus gave a violent start.

"What do you know about my driving demons out of a Tavern in New Jersey?" he demanded sharply.

"Not much only that you exorcised some Tavern in New Jersey and that the demons didn't resist you very much, that the place was a liquor or saloon tavern. Hannah told me that and I thought perhaps it is why you wish to help us here."

Hannah told you that did she?"

"Yes"

"What else did she tell you?"

There was no evading

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the steady gaze of those keen gray eyes but Violet met the gaze unflinchingly. She had nothing to fear.

"That is all" she said quietly. "She didn't tell you I also drove them out of places and persons in Europe, places that I even did not particularly fancy? She didn't tell you I also successfully fought them out of a possessed show house and got the best of them in other places even after years had passed and then returned to this country only to combat that Tavern place and then this German craze?"

"No" said Violet she never told me that."

"Well if she had it

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would have been nothing but the simple truth.

But with this place there is a different story. There are many things here that is very puzzling that would be dangerous talking about in here and that a man could never forgive himself for if he took the chances of telling right out in the hearing of these demons, it

"Sit down" he added abruptly waving her towards a chair "and lets get down to business. Now then suppose you tell me something about your famours & also, if you had the other parts you say you and your sisters will be able to clear this house

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of the Powers of darkness forever"

Violet nodded she dared not trust herself to speak.

"You must have some other means surely?"

"We have tried everything else and though we have been temporarily successful the demons only come back again. I have a few other ideas in my mind, but there is no one who will agree with me. And my sisters (~~Gifted by God~~) sisters have been thinking all along that the demons may not be in the house at all but do work their phenomena at a long distance. One instrument of the Palo would supernaturally show us if that is true

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or not"

"Once your elder sister told me that that is a supernatural reflector gifted by God, How about its reflecting of power, has its the way of a projecting mirror. Have you any idea how it works?"

"I don't say it works very much like a mirror" said Violet "but it works more different in a way. I worked it in the house in Coliss Junction and it reveals everything we wish to see. My mother was with me I believed though it showed only twenty two devils devils."

"Iaten and Beelzebub both there I suppose?"

"Iaten was with them when we were

fighting the hardest I am not sure about Beelzebub but the demon we know as Mike had been there too."

"Idm! Those two are here too I suppose"

"Yes"

"Detective Burns told me little Paulinia Flannigan was brutally strangled to death and her body gutted by a frightful apparition. How about that theory? Have you nothing to prove or that you have nothing to do with the evidence of that?"

"I or my sisters don't know very much about the phenomenon" said Violet with a slightly frightening color "It happened that all those that got killed entered this building while we were away. Paulinia was

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in this place with a gas  
inspector, and we were  
not in here when it occurred.

The gas man was danger-  
ously injured and is still  
in the hospital. She showed  
him the gas meter in the  
basement. I dad they gone  
out the same way they  
went nothing might have  
happened to them, but  
they came up to the  
first floor.

I believe she was  
attacked on the first floor  
near that dangerous  
hall tree."

"Paulinia and the  
orphan kid killed by  
the same phenomena

I suppose"

"Why do you suspect?"  
Both were killed the  
same way"

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"Paulinia died when she  
was near the possessed  
hall tree. I am not sure  
about the orphan, she  
may have been killed  
by it also, but her body  
was found draped over the  
bath tub.

"In this place is more  
dangerous than I suppose.  
I heard from priests and  
Bishops the demons got  
the best of them and you  
kids often"

"No, no, we very often  
drove them out more often  
than they drove us, but  
I believe there was some  
trouble at the time, be-  
cause we didn't think  
of the Paloos then and  
when we used it we  
were opposed just the  
same which never happened

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in the farm house at Collis junction near Mc Call's Run.

"If the demons worked at a long distance from here would working the Paloos drive them away, even while it worked in this place?"

"I don't know very much about that" said Violet.

"The demons were only in the house at Collis junction, I believe they were never anywhere else."

"Would Phenomenons kill any body there yes, there were killed by the tree outside and an apparition tried to kill six kids but we saved them, The apparition

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was similar to one we've seen here"

There was a short pause. Mr Francis drummed rather nervously with his fingers on the table. He was the first to speak.

What was the cause of this property both in and outside being possessed?" he asked abruptly.

Violet hesitated.

"I suppose you will think it very strange" she said but I really do not know. Mr Seesman said all this property was possessed over five years ago and I don't think any one who told us stories about the cause ever had the right thing as each tell something different or accuse people of them

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who (not only were not responsible but suffered also when tenants. I never liked to ask Mr. Reserman about it knowing the subject to be a painful one to him."

"No one seems to know how this place became possessed? Well that's a queer state of things. How can they expect us to do anything here then?"

"He didn't often mention the state of things here before the mansion was built then?"

"It's very strange," she said, "but I really don't know. Mr. Reserman bought the grounds from the Bainbridge Real Estate Co. and I don't think I ever heard any one even mention whether

the grounds were possessed by devils before this building was erected or not, and I never liked to ask Mr. Reserman or his mother about it as they too may know nothing about it."

"I don't know whether the grounds were possessed or not. Well that is a more queer state of things than the other. It's suspicious to me being a detective very suspicious. He didn't often mention about the grounds then?"

"He often spoke of strange things about the grounds according of what he heard from the contractors, and he bought the property at a very dear price."

"Could Mr. Reserman still

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contact the 03 armbridge Real Estate Company?"

"Yes, but why do you wish that?"

"Through the Real Estate we could probably contact the owner especially if they know nothing of the condition of the grounds before the place was built"

"No they knew nothing. Mr. Seerman told me the owner now is dead"

"Dead?"

"Yes"

A wave of some strong emotion swept over Mr. Paul Francis's face and for a moment the hand resting on the table trembled visibly, but Violet was too preoccupied with her own worrying and discouraging

thoughts to notice it. Then he spoke and his voice shook in spite of all his efforts at self control.

"You say you have no word at all — no word at all — as to the cause of all this. No clue in spite of everything done?"

Violet started something in the Octopus manner suddenly struck her as decidedly odd.

She gave one quick glance into his white face and next moment had started impulsively to her feet.

"You are ill, let me do something for you. I forgot there wasnt any means to fight demons without clues. Oh please dont give it up, and let me do something to

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help you"

"There's nothing discouraging about the lack of clues and I'm not ill either so you needn't worry about that. Sit down again and tell me something about the crazy Elm tree. I've got an idea that the fight should start there."

"You believe that is so?"  
"I ought to. Didn't you tell me there is an Elm tree in the farm yards of Collis Junction that you said did the same as the Elm tree in Mr. Seemanns grounds?"

"Yes, you know that tree too?"

"I knew a tree which answers pretty well to its description. It killed people in

precisely the same way, but not as many. It got people however who only slept beneath it on moonlight nights. "Yes, yes that was the action of the Elm tree in the grounds of the farmhouse and something unseen from it cried 'I'm cursed, I'm cursed, and so are ye all. How strange it seems that you should have known this? Why did you not tell us this before?'

"Before 'B ecause" said Paul Francis slowly it just came to my mind and many years ago I made a great discovery. One thing I discovered was about the

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possessed man called Se-  
gion they say 10,000 devils  
owned him body soul  
and brains. Then there  
was the man from whom  
the Apostles could not drive  
the banishes out. The  
original discovery I mean  
more to talk about is  
how I had drove spirits out  
of houses.

I discovered from  
experience that as long  
as I do not succeed in  
driving them out  
I am fighting at the  
wrong source of the  
trouble.

You got to get at  
the root of the trouble.  
on where the possess-  
ion began I do  
not believe I firmly  
do not believe the

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demons want to go away  
because cowardly as they  
are they are wishing to  
trap and cause your deaths  
because of your being  
such pretty and holy  
children.

Their attempts to cause  
objects to strangle you  
as you said is proof of  
my discovery. And another  
proof of my discovery  
comes from their dis-  
graceful attack upon little  
Sally Fielders whom  
you now keep refuged  
in a room of St Joseph's  
Hospital. I do not be-  
lieve without speedy  
intervention from God  
your possession angels  
could save you kids  
if the demons attacked  
attacked you again.

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This is the discovery I made and it was made in Poland. There was a dreadfully possessed house also in England but this one in Poland was similar to this 'crazy house' but not quite so dairied crazy. I brought into the place sixty priests and they all went through the process of a most solemn High Mass in different parts of the big house while from each priest 130 innocent eight years old kids received Holy Communion.

That was followed by every one at the top of their voices but singing beautifully the famous Hymn-

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March known as the jewels of the maddona. The demons fled and never came back again. Well that was the plan during this meeting with these priests. That could be done while you work at the Paloo. You never attempted my plan that I know, so you cannot imagine how it works.

"You - you made that discovery?" gasped Vio - let her eyes growing big with surprise "You must know a lot about possessed houses then - oh Mr Paul Francis tell me what does it mean?"

It means that I have been most successful a most unusually successful man. My Holy spear and all those

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masses and the children receiving Holy Communion did wonders, my surprise in the condition of this place and the memory of your narrow escape from total strangulation might have kept me from thinking of it now if it were not for the horrid fate of the two children and the hobos and others killed here.

The likeness of the way two little girls died, the way you, your sisters and Sally Field-er were attacked was unmistakable and then there was the gutting of the orphan and Paulinia.

Strange the boys who were killed

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were not strangled or gutted though the phenomena which killed them were far more violent. Were it not for Pernod and the angels who possessed you, you little girls might have went the same way Paulinia and the orphan kid did.

The way Paulinia and the orphan kid did" repeated Violet in growing horror and bewilderment "is it positive that we would really have been killed or gutted that way if the (WF angels didnt guard us or Pernod, you knew this long ago, are the demons as bad as that?"

"Worse far worse. Didn't you once tell me that seven or eight kids (are) all girls were

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were strangled to death by a large or oversized eight piped chandeliers in the house in Collis Junction?"

"No, you misunderstood us," said Violet. "It got us and some strange girl who aimlessly wandered into the building. It had been first but when we got up on the table to save her the other pipes strangled us."

Fortunately they let go of us of their own accord before we were unconscious but the horrific phenomena my steriously rendered us naked and try as we would we could not find our clothes after wards. The

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little girl died because we could not save her when strangled ourselves. (He) "In every room but the dorm ceiling one the chandeliers do the same in this place if we do not avoid them, you knew all about these chandeliers. Is there anything you know that would stop them. Any plan of yours?"

"I cannot say anything about the chandeliers. The demons work on them mean on. But what I told you is my plan added with your efforts at the Paloo if that dont work here we might as well resign everything to the will of God and give up" said

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Paul Francis solemnly "I  
drove the demons from 41  
places. Some places they  
fought me and drove me  
out. I refused to give up.  
You won at Mc Call's Run  
you are losing here. I  
know to lose out here  
would almost break your  
hearts but I think it would  
break mine at the same  
time. Violet and your sis-  
ters can you agree to  
my plan? If so suc-  
cess may follow."

"Yes we will" said  
Violet "But let me tell  
you something which  
may also help in  
the plan. According  
to Mr. Reseman this  
I'm to tell occurred  
to Mr. Reseman's  
first tenants who lived

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here on the third floor. The  
tenants had children, and  
they had become worried  
by the supposed fact that  
one of their three child-  
ren, two girls and a boy  
suffered from what they  
thought was "night terrors"  
nightmares.

Mildred Gander was  
eight. Her parents were  
awakened the first night  
to hear her screaming:  
"mama, daddy. He's com-  
ing to choke me. He'll  
get me. Oh - oh mama  
The awful hands are  
coming for my neck.  
Oh - oh Gawk"

Her mother ran to  
the side of the child's  
bed where she found  
her eight year old girl  
in the grip of what

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she thought was an imagination. horrible experience. Seemingly unconscious of her presence sobbing and at last drifting back to a quiet sleep as though nothing had happened.

As she had done many times before she tucked the cover about her and said "Well I suppose she was just having a very bad dream or perhaps she was a little over tired. She will be all right in the morning."

"Was it a nightmare?" asked Paul Frances.

"Wait and let me tell you. Another week had passed and several nights in succession Mildred

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had awokened with a scream as though frightened at some horrible sight although her days had been spent quietly about her home with her play mates.

Finally the apparent attacks became extremely severe, prolonged and frequent and over a period of three weeks the father and mother both alternated sitting up with Mildred each night watching her closely but when they did this nothing occurred.

One dreadful night the child seemed unable to sleep at all and as she was steadily losing weight, and becoming more and more nervous the parents took

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her to a mental hygiene clinic of a near by hospital for observation. The child would doze fitfully in her parents arms and repeatedly awake with a start crying "its coming its coming" or "it will choke me it will choke me" or sometimes she would mention a strange big black dog that would come and disappear like a ghost.

Mildred was left for a while at the clinic with a doctor who won the confidence of the child and finally coaxed her to play 'stories' with him tell all about her 'dreams' and fantasies. At first Mildred was

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a little timid and reluctantly took part in the game.

"Do you have nice dreams Mildred?"

"Oh not so, and I don't like to dream good or bad, I have no dreams."

"What do you mean to say you have no dreams?"

"no, but at night I see a hideous man, or sometimes an awful creature that looks like a ugly woman with feet like a big bird, with funny wings, I see through it and then it changes unto a big black dog as big as a pony."

"What did you dream that?"

"No I saw it. Really I did."

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"Was it a ghost?"

"No no it were no white sheet"

The doctor turned to the mother

"Is her dreams so strange-  
ly queer that it seems  
so real to her?"

The mother told every-  
thing leaving out moth-  
ing.

He turned again to the child.

"What does the big block  
dog do?"

"He wants to choke me  
with its paws."

"He does?"

"Yes"

"What does he want to  
choke you for?"

"Cause I a Catholic."

"You are either dreaming  
that Mildred or there

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is something the matter  
with the house? What makes  
you think you really see  
that?"

"Cause its true"

"I hope you aint telling a  
lie. Mildred. What makes  
you think its true?"

"Well it is true. I'm not  
bad, and I'm not fibbing.  
It said I was going to die  
by an awful choking. And  
I dont like to be choked  
at all."

"Who is going to give  
you an awful choking?"

"The woman with a  
birds feet who changed  
herself into a dog"

"Oh do you know for  
sure you're right?"

"Yes it comes at the  
same time at night and  
it tries to grab my

10228

neck"

"Why does it want to grab  
your neck?"

"Cause it says I'm a bad  
girl, and it wants to take  
me to an awful dark place.

It says its also going to  
cut my belly open if  
we all dont get out of  
the house";

"Bring the little girl  
to me to morrow at the  
clinic at St Josephs Hos-  
pital the doctor said. And  
let her sleep in the  
same room with you.

"I'll have Dr. McKenna  
look her over."

That following night  
the parents were again  
awakened by her child's  
screams "It's going  
to choke me. It's going  
to gawk"

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They both ran in obser-  
ved their child in the actual  
throes of strangulation with  
her tongue protruding.

At that moment the  
phenomenon ceased but  
the next morning the  
mother was only too glad  
when the child was brought  
to Dr. McKenna. The  
mother told the whole  
story even what happen-  
ed that night.

"Well I'll have to look  
at her" said the Doctor  
grumly

The child was privately  
examined for a long time  
and then the doctor re-  
appeared to the mother.

"Was your little girl act-  
ually going through the  
disturbances of acute  
strangulations with no,

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one in the room last night?"

"Yes doctor" she said.

"Hm, I had her stripped and examined and find nothing wrong. That dream may have been caused by frightening stories she reads, or which some one told her. That trouble could be cured but I'll have to keep her here for a couple of days to go through the proper training, and for observation. Where do you live?"

"When the mother gave the address the great doctor nearly jumped out of his shoes."

"Where do you live?" she repeated the address.

He went into the

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adjoining room, and she could see him consulting other doctors. Then after a few minutes out he came, he said:

From my own observations of many cases such as your little girls I would conclude that night terrors in children are the result of some fear developed, and traced back to some frightening experience or threat made to the child in the earlier age.

The memory of its cause is of terrifying dreams or night terrors but I can say that the child's reactions to the immediate circumstance are only the reawakening of fear developed by the fact

that your child has exactly seen what she relates."

The mother gave a start but he went on: "Now I know that house. Cases which comes daily to our clinics knows too. Such terror are often also accompanied by enuresis even in children as old as thirteen years.

But your child is a much different case. The circumstances which brings about the terror in your child has been mistaken as the night mares.

In other cases the night terrors has remained with child even during all the years of early child-

hood. Usually the threat of choking or mutilation was made to them because of strange habits. The danger of such threats to the mental development of the child can not be over emphasized. And from many others, even more severe cases which come daily to our clinics.

But again I'll say the circumstances which brings about the horror and fright in your little girl has been mistaken as the night terror dreams but which is not. How long have you lived in Mr. Geesemans house? About four months? Didn't any body warn

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you about going into the place?"

"No doctor"

"Well they should have. Events there which are alleged to cause the night terrors but which arouses the fear of strangulation or mutilation are caused by something concerning the condition of the house and these are to precede the night terrors. Did you ever notice anything very strange about the place?"

"No"

"Well my dear lady get out of that house with your family before something really terrible happens. It's possessed by devils." And they went."

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"So that's the way it is?" the Octopus "Well there is one thing I must do before anything can be done fully. I must find out whether the grounds were possessed before the building was erected or the building afterwards. or during its construction I must contact Mr. Reseman and get him to contact the contractors if that is possible."

"Has Reseman the courage to come to this place?"

"Yes" but he's taking a chance if he does do it without us or priests as an escort. He is not afraid of the demons

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but the devils are not afraid of him either. It's best to consult him where he lives. And you could go to morrow while the rest of us stay here."

There was a sound outside the door and Father Carney entered the room.

He walked up straight to Violet and took her hand in his.

"Violet" he said very gently "I want you to prepare yourself for a great surprise, a probable great joy. Bishop Hopkins and Evans have placed everything that came to day to your Paloo and every thing is ready. We hope soon to bring the crisis

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to a close. Your little sisters are sleeping quietly for a well needed rest and provided no unforeseen complications arise we see every reason to believe that in another week or so this house will be entirely clear of the spirits."

Mr Paul Francis sank back in his chair with a murmured thank God and then covered his face with his hands.

Next moment he had lifted his face again with a violent start for a pair of warm young little arms were around his neck a soft tear wet face was pressed to his.

"Mr Francis" whispered

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the sweet young voice "Mrs Francis I think I understand it all and I want to tell you something that mother said to us just before we started to fight the demons here "if you should ever need a great man's assistance 'Violet' it isn't very likely that you ever will, for he is very far off in New York City but if you ever should go and see him, and if he can't help you out nobody else can. We will go through with your plans indeed we will and so will the rest and - and we may surely succeed this time."

Violet was with the

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Octopus going down the stairs to close the front door which the evil spirits so mysteriously left open all the time, when coming to the room in which was the dresser with the possessed mirror, when looking in at hearing strange sounds they were horrified at a sight which decided their intention to break up this crazy condition of the crazy house by the end of next week if possible.

Two little girls and a boy, who were strangers were being strangled by the horrid glassy hands that protruded from the mirror mirror and kids

strangled by Glorodelirians didn't look like they did or stick their tongues out so far.

They had observed a sight like this before and it had been a decaying phenomenon that slowly vanished so Violet at first thought this was another phenomenon. but not so.

How the kids got into the house and wandered into this dangerous room they knew not and besides they were naked.

But for Violet to go in would be fatal and the Octopus would not let her.

But she screamed for her sisters to come

down. They did so in a hurry, one carrying holy water and a crucifix but they were too late for when the phenomenon stopped the little girls and the boy lay on the floor dead their tongues still protruding.

"There's one thing I heard" said Violet to the Octopus that evening "and that it will be most difficult for us to do anything unless we find out what, or who caused this place to be possessed. We've been trying to find that out since we learned this place has all these demons. but every effort has been a flop"

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"Who first owned the grounds?"

"Frank Spaulding but he's dead."

"Didn't any one own it before him?"

"No, it was then some small private city park."

"It could have been possessed then?"

"No sir" answered Violet. I found that out by investigating. It was not even possessed during the time Spaulding owned it, but after he sold it, then it began to happen."

"By Golly I suspect something there. Wasn't he the caused without knowing it?"

"I don't see why?" de-

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clared violet. His character was good, and his son is a priest, and his daughter a nun."

"But there is something strange there I'm going to try and find out though I don't believe that. Idea is hampering our efforts. Had the persons you investigated really been innocent of the affair?"

"Yes."

"But continued The Octopus mediately "I can't see a understand how that has anything to do with our difficulty. What I fear is some thing else."

"What is that?" Violet demanded.

"It is the size of the

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building and the extent of the grounds. Consisting of the building and the attic only two rooms and the basement are the only places not possessed. All the possessed rooms are very large the halls are wide and very long.

The library is so badly possessed its impossible to enter.

The music room is nearly as bad. Theres the difficulty, too many rooms and too large.

The grounds are nearly as large as Idom bolt Park. The most dangerously possessed, possibly more, is the Maple Elm tree near the

10286

entrance of the building and the tall chestnut tree alongside of it. The branches of both strangle or flying. Those trees are rank suicide to pass. That is why? decide on my own plan to day."

The plan to have masses in every room at one time children to receive communion at every Mass and me and my sisters to sing the Jewels of the Madonna."

"Yes" "We will try that plan"

A plan is more easily made than accomplished.

The library was the room that was impossible to enter without fatal results.

Bishop Garner Turner Bentley was fatally injured in there.

The banshees would let you in but would not let you out.

The number of priests and kids according to the plan of the Octopus came, but not one dared try the library unless something could be done to keep the Powers of darkness in their places.

The Octopus attempted to force his way in with Evans carrying the big crucifix, and

was repulsed by a fire phenomenon enveloping the room suddenly and spreading out into that end of the hall driving them back.

The fire phenomenon continued without ceasing.

It was disheartening to the little girls who loudly blamed themselves for having taken it out in the first place.

The priests were for driving them out of the other rooms first, but Pernod said:

"If we do it could be possible they'd all go into the library which is the root of all the trouble and the situation would be a hundred fold worse."

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In all rooms including  
the basement and attic  
the Masses must be said.  
or else we got to give it  
up. I am suspicious the  
spirits are some where else  
and work the crazy stunts  
in this place but the  
reflector on the Paloo will  
show that. The Library  
must be conquered some  
way and the first of  
all too.

"But how?" asked the  
Octopus.

"The Crucifix must be  
faced in. If we only  
had fire proof asbestos  
suits."

"Yes, but fire will  
make them hot" de-  
clared a priest.

"But the demons being  
able to do this at a

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distance is something strange  
and very discouraging to me"  
said the Octopus. "But I've  
read of it being done. It's  
called Transmissionary powers.  
They also have Transformation  
powers.

"Demons could be in some  
remote place in New York  
and cause the phenomena  
nowhere. Would your  
reflector reveal them if  
they were in New York?"  
turning to Violet.

"Yes indeed. It would  
reveal them anywhere,  
no matter where they  
are. But they could even  
use their transmissionary  
powers as far as Hades."

"I know that" said the  
rest together. Then they  
have us stumped."

"Oh no-o-o, they don't"

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cried Violet, "Our Paloos by  
Gods Holy Powers transmitted  
to it will reach them  
even that far. We are not  
stumped at all."

"Then the case is not  
so hopeless except this  
crazy Library. Couldnt  
you use the Paloos down  
here againt it?"

"We have tried it several  
times before and had been  
repulsed. The spirits here  
dont seem to be afraid  
of any holy thing or of  
the Paloos either. The  
demons at Collis Junction  
were."

"Well lets try it  
any way. This Library is  
to be our main Chapel  
untill this crazy trou-  
ble is entirely over.  
Evans brought the

Paloos down from the third  
floor and placed it in front  
of the Library door. With  
everything now completed  
to the Paloos it was some-  
what heavier and Evans  
had a load to carry this  
time.

Violet wondered whether  
to use the reflector into  
the Library or go ahead  
working all parts of  
the Paloos at one day.

Of course Pennrod and  
her sisters were needed  
to help and it was cer-  
tainly going to be work-

The step ladder plat-  
form was not big  
enough for all at one  
time either.

It was pushed as  
close to the open door  
as the heat of the

1025-3

raging fire phenomena would permit. Violet worked a wheel, there was a bright blue flash as from the flash powder during the photographing of a room and then a long streamer of green light and smoke shot into the flaming room, and to the astonishment of all the fire phenomena gradually went out.

"I saw it - but I do not - cannot believe it. That strange light coming from the P also put the fire out" said the Old Opus. "Your P also actually blew the fire out, how?? What?? I can't believe it"

"That's why you will never know how it

1025-3

could be," answered Violet "For those who don't believe there is no explanation. Well that's that now for the next move."

She started up the platform followed by Grace and Gennee.

It was now her purpose to test the reflector to find out for sure whether the fiends were in the library or at some other location. To try it with the fire phenomena raging would not have been much of a success.

But before she would do so she must specifically announce her purpose.

Would not the appearance of the demons

be too much to gaze upon?"  
asked the Octopus.

"I can use my will power to withstand it" declared Violet "it surely takes more than mere demons to scare me. They'd better be afraid of me."

The reflection had to be lighted first before it was swung into place.

This done Violet adjusted an instrument similar to a photograph slide. Then putting on colored glasses to her eyes to resist the strong glare she squeezed a bubb and looked into the reflector.

What she observed surely would have frightened a less brave person. But to

her it was like observing villains on a movie screen, and she was only curious though hateful as she gazed for some time.

Then she swung it back into its proper place.

In fact the very demons not looking did not know they were being observed.

Violet signalled to Evans who came up to the platform. He too took a turn in looking through the reflector.

She got down and going to the Octopus said:

"There are eighty seven demons there. I know who they are. A good number of them were

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in the farm house at  
Collis junction"

"The same ones, all of  
them?" he asked.

"At Collis junction yes.  
But there are others that  
I know not I do not  
see those that resemble  
Judas, Henry the Eight,  
or Martin John Luther  
among them."

"In the one you call  
Mike there?"

"I dont know. I never  
saw him face to face."

"If those at Collis  
junction were easy to  
drive out why are they  
so stubborn here?" ask-  
ed the Octopus.

"Easy to drive out? dont  
make me laugh" said  
Violet, "They gave  
us the most terrific

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and stubborn resistance  
and turned everything on  
in topsy turvy making  
the most awful noises,  
but the building was  
small, and we could easily  
concentrate on them all  
at once.

The main difficulty  
is the sorry size of the  
rooms and the enormous  
mouse extent of this  
building. The house at  
Collis junction was not  
big enough to room  
us and our parents  
on one floor. The place  
was wretched & possessed  
than these mans in.  
The demons in one  
way have the  
advantage over us be-  
cause of the immen-  
sity of the structure

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and the size of the rooms and corridors. The grounds of the farm house with the exception of the Elm tree were not disturbed. The Collis Junction house has no corridors or basement.

How did you do it there?

"Worked it down from the second floor to the one below"

"Which floor was possessed the worst?"

"Like this house, the second. But the house has only two stories. This one is four counting the attic. Three floors are possessed. The grounds and the roof. We tried to fight them off the roof and were badly defeated"

10259

"I know that" said the Octopus "I was the conductor of that fight. Well lets get going. Lets see if Evans can get in with the big crucifix. You look through the reflector and see if it scares the fiends or not."

Violet said something to Evans and climbed the platform. Evans grasped the crucifix and headed for the entrance of the library.

This time Evans was half way in before the Banshees observed him.

Evans by a miracle barely escaped the phenomenon that occurred.

The floor had started

10260

to tip but accidentally dropping the Crucifix Evans was out of the library before the whole went bottom upward the Crucifix going to the ceiling with a mighty crash, and then bounding from one part of the room to the other went sliding out into the hall crashing against the Paloo so violently as to upset it with a deafening roar and the platform also upset, throwing Violet to the floor almost headfirst, Jennie on top of her.

Nothing was damaged but Violet suffered a bruised head and a skinned arm and knee.

A terrible commotion

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came from the library and the upside down phenomena was added by a phenomenon fire that swept out into the hall threatening to envelope them all.

They retreated to a safe distance Evans staying behind to right the Paloo in spite of everything. "Did you get hurt bad?" asked the Octopus.

"I skinned my arm and knee and tested my head nicely on the floor" said Violet ironically. "But outside of that I'm not hurt. I expected the demons to do that but not that soon."

"Did you see how they worked the phenomena?"

"No, they revealed

10262

no evidence how they did it, all the motion they made was to rush to either side of the room and huddle against the opposite walls assuming a position as to attack. Then it all happened.

"Maybe some other demon not inside the room did it" suggested Pernod.

"It could be possible" said I wonder mused Violet. "Has that Crucifix ever been blessed?"

All looked at one another at that question.

"Why do you ask that?" demanded Angeline.

"Because I do not think they'd do that if it was"

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who own the Crucifix?"

"Mr. Reseman,"

"Could one of you go out and phone him?"

"I will" declared Father Carney. While he was gone Violet did the same thing that over came the fire phenomena before.

It was some twenty minutes before Father Carney came back.

"No it wasn't" he explained. "Being no Catholic at the time he bought it he didn't bother. No tenant had thought whether it was blessed or not, and did not have it done either."

"Well I will bless it then?" said Father Carney which he did but making the occasion

10264

more solemn. Then Evans backed by the Octopus and three of the little girls, the latter throwing Holy Water made an attempt to enter the library though it was still upside down.

They were almost caught by the fire phenomena this time, Evans the Octopus, and 'Angelina being slightly singed about their faces and hands.

"It seems like we can't do a thing?" cried Violet.

"The demons repulse us with fire phenomena" added Gerrie.

"If those in the crazy library are not doing it who is" concluded Angelina suddenly greasing on her

10265

hands and face.

"I believe some of the fiends in the music room are doing the whole thing" admonished Pernod in a whisper to Violet "Don't you think that the reflection would reveal that?"

"Not unless some one does something to arouse them to start a phenomenon."

"I know a way to get the Crucifix in" declared Catherine "Evans could shove it in."

Evans took the hilt and grasping it by the top gave it a swift push towards the library entrance, Violet at the same time again using the method

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that stops the phenomenon fire. The Crucifix stayed in a minute on the middle of the floor then all wished Evans had not pushed it in.

Had they known this would have happened they would not have suggested to Evans to push the big Crucifix into the library. And also it was a miracle that not one of them was hurt or even killed. And no one could explain how it really happened. or how it was done. And it was absolutely unbelievable too, but the great crucifix rose in the air and pitched through

10268

the open doorway like an arrow shot from a bow and came out into the hall, as if it was violently flung by many unseen hands. Had they not scattered in all directions all of them would have been struck.

It made a terrific crash as it landed on the floor rebounding this way and that and scaring the life out of everybody in the place.

Then the door of the library went shut with a bang.

In a moment they all stood spellbound with earnestness and horror and couldn't think what to do next.

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"Well that's that" the Octopus said hoarsely. "It seems that the devils have us licked, I didn't think they would dare pick up and throw a crucifix."

"Did they really throw it?" gasped Violet.

"Of course they did. How else could this have happened? It surely could not be a supernatural phenomena as they would not dare work one against a crucifix, and if it had struck any one of us we'd been killed."

It seemed to them all that nothing could be done concerning the crazy library. All the priests who were asked to come and

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say the masses were balked at this strange happening, and felt very much disengaged. It was evident as to the succeeding fire phenomena that some unseen demons, probably in one of the rooms in the hall beyond worked all that themselves.

And to offset it all it was declared that no children of any kind could be induced to come within the very grounds of the building to carry out the Octopus's plans.

Not only because they were afraid or not but the city authorities fearing for their safety would not permit it under any conditions.

whatever. The city authorities would not even allow the Abbieannian child scouts companions to do it either, even though these kids were not afraid of anything.

But though it was very discouraging none of them had any intention of giving up.

Evans by his sheer strength smashed the library door down with a piece piece of heavy iron and the little girls went furiously to work on the Paloo using every device there was on it as well as spraying clouds of holy water every where they could reach into the

dangerous room. The demons did everything to fight back raising a terrific unearthly tumult, shaking the hall and library like an earthquake starting fire the momemons anew and finally threatening to tip the hall upside down and to overthrow the Paloo

Books from unseen hands were thrown at the little girls, but they stuck to their work until night and when too fatigued to carry on further.

Then Evans and Pennod took their place with the help of the priests and Bishop.

When the little virgins prepared to go to bed in their

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safe room under the attic there came a startling phenomenon. Something like flashing sparks as from a Fourth of July giant fiery pin wheel suddenly chased itself simultaneously around their beds a few turns and then split the quilts as though those covers had been neatly snipped in half with a pair of huge shears.

At the same time the two pillows of each bed took on the appearance of having the most hideous leering faces and had the little girls gone to bed before this happened, they would undoubtedly

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have been killed by the source that seared and ripped the covers, or from something that possessed the pillows.

But as luck would have it this was not so and they were not so much as stunned.

But Violet and her sisters didn't dare to go to bed that night not even after the phenomenon had ceased, for fear it would renew while they were asleep.

So they slept up in the attic. But by moon very no headway had been made in the library.

During that night's continual battle where

the demons had evidently retained their hold on the library the 'Octopus' had the sudden thought that maybe for some good reason or other God, by His Holy Will intended for the Banshees to remain in the great house, though he couldn't understand why all sacramentals wouldn't at least drive the evil creatures out of the library.

But if his idea was so then the demons were in a predicament that was far from pleasant because no matter what they had tried to do to the little Virgins they were dreadfully afraid of

them. In fact their fear of the little girls caused them to resort to all these most violent and terrifying manifestations. But then they had God to fear a hundred fold worse, and if ~~the~~ He did. Will them to stay they dare not disobey him, and had to defy the 'others'.

Therefore they were between two fires if the 'Octopus' theory was really true.

But when the 'Octopus' brought up his theory to the little girls they scouted the idea because Pennoo had tried to find that out more than once from the angel of the miraculous medal and could get

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no very satisfactory save getting the small sentence of "Please Pernod have more patience and in due time all will be well."

And what Violet and her sisters believed was that there was a grave danger of driving the demons from one room to another and then back again instead of out of the building.

And if it had been successful in the grounds first, then all those demons would seek refuge in the building and the added number would make the situation far worse.

What they desired to know more than anything else was what caused the demons

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to be so stubborn and defy them at every move if they were scared of them and Pernod as it was said they even defied the Sacraments and the Paloo.

Violet and her sisters were sometimes tempted to give up and leave the building to its fate, but then they too were unmeasurably stubborn against anything evil and were horrified and stunned at the idea of being tempted to allow the demons to get the best of them.

They blamed the size of the building for their difficulties but more so the awful stubbornness of the foul fiends.

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Pennrod and his sisters decided upon a most desperate plan. A plan that must be carried out successfully or it would end in grave disaster as the little girls felt sure the demons were not afraid of them at all.

The boy and girlscouts must receive the holy communion in the building no matter what the city officials think or say.

Violet talked this over with the Octopus at breakfast in the attic.

He said:

"I can't say I approve and I won't say I won't approve either. But you are doing it at your own risk and if the devils attack

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those kids."

"Oh forget that" retorted Violet. "I can select a good number among them who helped me at Collis Junction and we'll win sure. The authorities do not say we are forbidden to do it, but only if we do so we take the risk and they're not responsible."

We should take any risk for the sake of God and we will we got to make sacrifices to win. I'll send Evans to round them up."

She notified Evans of her purpose and then as he went out she and her sisters and Pennrod started the battle anew against the

10281

loathsome foe in the library. This time as good luck would have it the Powers of darkness began to give ground by the demand of St Michael.

This enabled Violet and her sisters, reinforced by the Octopus and the others to push on in the attack and by ten o'clock they had both the Palos and the huge Crucifix in the library.

At eleven there came a bright blue and white flashing of light in the library and the reflector showed the huge book room clear of the evil spirits.

Fearing they may have driven the demons only into

another room they readjusted the reflector to prove whether that may be so or not but to their relief they were greatly mistaken.

The Octopus, Evans who had returned, and all the priests were able to get that huge alter from the side room in the attic, down stairs and drawn into the library where it was placed against the end wall where the great Crucifix had been already restored in its former place.

This was a better victory than had been expected, consisting of the desperate resistance they had met all day yesterday.

When the Idoly of Idols

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had been placed in the tabernacle and the library changed to look like a huge chapel by 8 o'clock the Paloo was hauled out and the attack renewed against the music room. But this was a waste of time.

They did not know it but when the fiends vacated the library, those in the music room vacated too, for the sacredness of the Paloo was dreaded too much.

Two minutes soon proved to the little girls that something was strange for if there's no fiends any where mechanical parts of the Paloo won't work. Violet being suspicious